

REMARKS

I. Introduction

With the cancellation herein without prejudice of claim 18, claims 19 to 37 are pending and being considered in the present application, since claims 1 to 17 were previously canceled. No new matter has been added. In view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the presently pending claims are allowable, and reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Applicants note with appreciation the acknowledgement of the claim for foreign priority and the indication that all of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

Applicants thank the Examiner for considering the previously filed Information Disclosure Statements, PTO-1449 papers, and cited references.

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 20 to 28 are allowable. In this regard, the Examiner will note that claim 20 (from which claims 21 to 28 ultimately depend) has been rewritten in independent form to include all of the features of its base claim. The Examiner will further note that claim 19 has been amended herein without prejudice to depend from claim 20. The Examiner will further note that each of claims 29, 30 (from which claims 31 to 35 ultimately depend), and 36 (from claim 37 depends) has been amended herein without prejudice to include subject matter analogous to that of claim 20. Accordingly, claims 19 to 37 are in condition for immediate allowance.

The remaining rejected claim has been canceled herein without prejudice thereby rendering moot the remaining claim rejections.

Accordingly, all of pending claims 19 to 37 are allowable.

Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of the claims as previously presented in a continuation patent application. Further, any disclaimer that may have occurred during the prosecution of this application is expressly rescinded as regards any subsequently filed patent application.

CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all of the presently pending claims are in condition for allowance. Prompt reconsideration and allowance of the present application are therefore earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: November 13, 2008

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